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Atty. Docket No.: P69471US1

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbing element having adhesive properties comprising hydrocolloids in an elastomeric matrix, wherein ~~at least a part of a first facade of the absorbing element comprises~~ including a plurality of grottos, each grotto being of at least 5µm in diameter and the average diameter ~~size~~ of said plurality of the grottos being ~~is~~ less than 300µm.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~-absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the grottos are obtained by heat treatment of the absorbing element.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~-absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the grottos are obtained by heating the absorbing element.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~-absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the absorbing element is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

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5. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~-absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the first facade is adapted for releasable adhesion to skin.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~-absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloids are selected from the group consisting of naturally occurring hydrocolloids such as guar gum, locust bean gum, pectin, alginates, gelatine, xanthan or karaya gum; semisynthetic hydrocolloids such as cellulose derivatives, e.g. salts of carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, sodium starch glycollate; microcolloids; and synthetic hydrocolloids such as polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol or certain polyacrylates.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~-absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric matrix is self adhesive.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~-absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric matrix is a rubbery elastomeric base.

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9. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~-absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric matrix is of material that does ~~do~~ not flow at room temperature.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~-absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the grottos are obtained by heat treatment of the part of the first facade of the absorbing element with electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength of more than 400 nm.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~-absorbing element according to claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein the heat treatment comprises irradiation of the first facade with an infrared laser.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~-absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the average size of the grottos is less than 200µm.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~-absorbing element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said absorbing ~~adhesive~~-element is ~~being~~-adapted to form part of a medical device.

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14. (Withdrawn) A method of producing an adhesive element comprising an adhesive layer, the adhesive layer comprising at least a first zone having a first surface associated with a first set of surface properties and at least one second zone having a second surface constituting at least a part of the adhesive surface of the adhesive element, the second surface being associated with a second set of surface properties differing from the first set of surface properties, wherein material as present in the second surface is obtainable by a heat treatment of material in the first surface, said material comprising a pressure sensitive adhesive composition, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an adhesive element comprising an adhesive layer,

selecting a heat source,

locating the adhesive layer and the heat source in a relationship enabling a heat treatment of the second surface of the adhesive layer, and

heat treating the second surface with the selected heat source for a sufficient time for obtaining the second set of properties.

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15. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment comprises contact heating or convection heating.

16. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment comprises irradiation of the second surface with electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength above 400 nm.

17. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the irradiation comprises irradiation with a laser or a polychromatic lamp.

18. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment is performed using a mask for protecting parts of the surface to be less treated, said mask covering a part of the surface layer.

19. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment is performed progressively such that the heat treatment of a first portion of the second zone of the adhesive layer is delayed compared to the heat treatment of second portion of the second zone of the adhesive layer.

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20. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment comprises writing a pattern on the surface of the adhesive layer with an infrared laser.

21. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment is performed through a liner in contact with the adhesive layer.

22. (Withdrawn) An adhesive element comprising:  
an adhesive layer made of a single adhesive material, the adhesive layer forming a skin-contacting surface including at least:

a first zone having a first surface associated with a first set of surface properties, said first surface constituting a first part of said skin-contacting surface of said adhesive layer and including a pressure sensitive adhesive composition; and

a second zone having a second surface constituting a second part of the skin-contacting surface of the adhesive layer, the second surface being associated with a second set of surface properties differing from the first set of surface properties and produced by a heat treatment of said single adhesive material in the second zone only while leaving said first zone untreated.

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23. (Withdrawn) The adhesive element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the first surface and the second surface are integral with one another and form a pattern on the skin-contacting surface.

24. (Withdrawn) The adhesive element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the first and second sets of surface properties include a temporal profile of water absorption into the adhesive layer.

25. (Withdrawn) The adhesive element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the first and second sets of surface properties include an adhesive surface property of the adhesive layer.

26. (Withdrawn) The adhesive element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the first and second sets of surface properties include a property affecting the visual appearance of the adhesive layer.

27. (Withdrawn) The adhesive element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the first and second sets of surface properties include at least two surface properties.

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28. (Withdrawn) The adhesive element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive composition includes hydrocolloid particles.

29. (Withdrawn) A method of making an adhesive element including an adhesive layer made of a single pressure sensitive adhesive composition and having a first zone with a first surface associated with a first set of surface properties, said first surface constituting a part of an adhesive surface of the adhesive element, and a second zone with a second surface constituting a part of the adhesive surface of the adhesive element, the second surface being associated with a second set of surface properties differing from the first set of surface properties, said second set of surface properties as present in the second surface being produced by a heat treatment of material in the second zone, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing said adhesive element including said adhesive layer of said single pressure sensitive adhesive composition;

- selecting a heat source;

- locating the adhesive layer and the heat source in a relationship enabling a heat treatment of the second surface of the adhesive layer while said first surface is untreated; and

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heat treating only the second surface with the selected heat source for a sufficient time to produce the second set of surface properties therein.

30. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the step of heat treating includes irradiation of the skin-contacting surface of the adhesive layer with an infrared laser.